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Vb

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/367,009 11/08/99 MORRIS

C 047763-5010

009629
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WASHINGTON DC 20036-5869

HM12/0213

EXAMINER

DAVIS, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1642

DATE MAILED:

02/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/367,009

Applicant(s)
Morris et al

Examiner
Minh-Tam Davis

Group Art Unit
1642



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 8, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-12 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 1642

DETAILED ACTION

SEQUENCE RULE COMPLIANCE.

This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821-1.825 for the reason(s) set forth on the attached Notice To Comply With Requirements For Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence And/Or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures.

Furthermore, **each time a sequence is recited either in the claims or in the specification, said sequence is required to be identified with a sequence identification number.**

Applicant is given ONE MONTH, or THIRTY DAYS, whichever is longer from the date of this letter within which to comply with the sequence rules, 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in ABANDONMENT of the application under 37 CFR 1.821 (g). Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no case may an applicant extend the period for response beyond the SIX MONTH statutory period. Direct the response to the undersigned. Applicant is requested to return a copy of the attached Notice to Comply with the response.

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Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Groups I-III. Claims 1-9, drawn to a method for screening non-ocular diseases comprising analysing a protein marker, classified in class 530, subclass 387.1. A method using a single protein among the three proteins recited in claim 1 constitutes a single invention, and **not a species**.

Applicant is required to elect a single invention.

Groups IV-VI. Claims 10-11, drawn to an isolated protein, classified in class 530, subclass 300. A single protein among the three proteins recited in claim 10 constitutes a single invention, and **not a species**. Applicant is required to elect a single invention.

Groups VII-IX. Claim 12, drawn to a nucleic acid molecule, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1. A nucleic acid molecule encoding a single protein among the three proteins recited in claim 10 constitutes a single invention, and **not a species**. Applicant is required to elect a single invention.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions (I-III) and (IV-IX) are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. 806.05 (h)). In this instant case, a polypeptide could be used for several purposes, e.g. for biochemical assay, for making antibodies, and for making an affinity column to purify its

Art Unit:

antibodies; a DNA sequence could be used for the detection of similar DNA or RNA sequences, for making an expression vector, and for producing its encoded protein.

The products of groups IV-IX are patentably distinct, because they are drawn to entirely different biochemicals, having different structures. For example, the three proteins of groups IV-VI are structurally distinct, and the three nucleic acid molecules of groups VII-IX are structurally distinct..

The methods of groups I-III are distinct from each other because they differ at least in reagents and/or dosages, and/or schedules used, response variables and criteria for success.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reason given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and because the searches for the groups are not co-extensive, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicants are required under 35 USC 121 to elect a single disclosed group for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted.

Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(h).

Art Unit:


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Tam B. Davis whose telephone number is (703) 305-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 3:30pm, except on Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tony Caputa, can be reached on (703) 308-3995. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4227.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0916.

Minh-Tam B. Davis

February 09/2001


SUSAN UNGAR, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER